

will do to protect this important health funding.

Sincerely,

MARGO G. WOOTAN,
Director of Nutrition Policy.

FEBRUARY 13, 2012.

Hon. RICHARD J. DURBIN,
U.S. Senate, State of Illinois, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC.

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN: Your support is needed to maintain funding for critical preventive health work made possible by the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Recent proposals to reduce, eliminate or divert its funding ignore the long-term fiscal and health benefits of investing in prevention.

We urge you to oppose any reduction in funding to the Prevention Fund. The fund is an unprecedented investment in national, state and local efforts to prevent disease, save lives and reduce long-term health costs. More than 700 national, state and local organizations support the Prevention Fund.

Last year, Illinois received almost \$21 million to invest in effective and proven prevention efforts. That money is going to communities making changes to improve long-term health, the state's public health infrastructure and training centers, HIV prevention efforts, tobacco prevention, and primary care and behavioral health services.

Overall, the Prevention Fund will provide communities across the U.S. with more than \$16 billion over the next 10 years. Slashing this funding would be an enormous step backward in our progress on cost containment, public health modernization and wellness promotion.

By and large, our health care system is based on treating illness rather than preventing it: Billions of dollars are spent each year through Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal health care programs to pay for health care services once patients get sick. Before the Prevention Fund, there was no corresponding, reliable investment in efforts to promote wellness, prevent disease, and protect against public health or bioterrorism emergencies.

Prevention is the key to lowering health care costs and creating a long-term path to a healthier and economically sound America. I urge you to continue our investment in the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH A. ANTOLIN,
*Vice President,
Heartland Alliance;
Executive Director,
Heartland Human Care Services, Inc.*

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I have submitted an amendment to the pending surface transportation reauthorization bill.

Community colleges are a critical source of education and job training for many individuals. Nationwide, we have 1,655 community colleges, which enroll nearly 6 million students. These community colleges will play a big role in helping Americans develop the skills to be competitive in our 21st century economy.

In light of the President's call for job training assistance, it is imperative that we support programs that help workers meet the new demands of our economy. My amendment does just that.

This amendment ensures that transit agencies that partner with community colleges on job training programs are eligible for Federal grants.

By supporting collaborative job-training programs between community colleges and transit agencies, we support our workforce in gaining valuable technical skills, while also supporting industries that are facing a workforce shortage.

I will urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment to ensure that we are supporting our workers in getting a valuable education and supporting an industry that is facing a critical workforce shortage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we go to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING BILL BOARMAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service of the 26th Public Printer of the United States. Bill Boarman led the Government Printing Office, GPO, with distinction over the past year. He has been a tremendous asset to the organization, and we will miss his service.

President Obama nominated Bill to serve as the Public Printer in April 2010, and his nomination was reported favorably by the Senate Rules Committee in July of that year. Because the Senate was unable to confirm Bill in the 111th Congress, President Obama used a recess appointment to install Bill as the Public Printer in December 2010.

Once in office Bill found that the GPO faced serious financial problems. Bill immediately took steps to put GPO on solid financial footing by cutting spending overhead and other non-essential costs. He successfully implemented a buyout to adjust the size of GPO's workforce. Perhaps most important, Bill set up a special task force to collect millions in outstanding payments owed to the GPO by other Federal agencies. These actions saved the GPO and the taxpayers millions of dollars.

Bill did more than just cut costs. To help Congress reduce its use of printed documents, Bill ordered the first-ever survey of all Senate and House offices that allowed them to opt out of receiving printed copies of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and other publications. He put the GPO on Facebook, oversaw the release of the GPO's first mobile Web app, and drafted a strategic investment plan to modernize the GPO's technology. He also presided over the observance of the GPO's 150th anniversary and made history himself by appointing as his deputy a seasoned GPO official who is the first woman ever to hold that position.

Unfortunately, the Senate did not confirm Bill before the 112th Congress

adjourned, and Bill's recess appointment expired. He leaves the agency in sound condition and in the good hands of Acting Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks. During his brief tenure, Bill compiled a remarkable record of accomplishments. I know I speak for the Senate family when we thank Bill for his service as our Nation's Public Printer.

RECOGNIZING MIDWAY COLLEGE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an educational institution that has been determined to create job opportunities and more easily accessible pathways to attaining professional degrees for Kentuckians, Midway College.

Midway College is a private school in Midway, KY, located in between Lexington and Frankfort. The school, established in 1847, has since created not only a rich tradition but a bright future for itself as well. Grounded in the golden rule, the school's motto is "ama vicinum acte," Latin for "love your neighbor in deed." And Midway College and its faculty are dedicated to living just so. The college has opened 14 different branches across the State offering numerous disciplines students can choose to study and thereby diversifying the type of student who could potentially enroll by constructing schools in an array of unique locations.

In 2009, Midway College president Dr. William B. Drake, Jr., along with attorney G. Chad Perry III, and his wife Judy Perry, had a vision to create a 15th branch of the college in a small Kentucky town. This new branch would be expected to not only strengthen the Commonwealth but the entire Nation as well. Their dream soon became a reality in January of 2010 when Midway College's board of trustees announced plans to open the Midway College School of Pharmacy in Paintsville, KY.

The small community of Paintsville is located in Johnson County, and, according to President Drake, they could not have asked for a more perfect location for the school. The town's citizens, who strongly care about education, got involved early with the project and stepped forward to ensure that Paintsville would be the right home for the school. The new institute of learning will not only offer over 100 jobs to an area that is suffering from high unemployment rates but will generate around \$30 million in revenue each year.

The climate of our Nation is rapidly changing. As baby boomers age and are now in more medical need than ever before, Midway College is breaking new grounds in its attempt to combat the problem. Only four States have greater need of pharmacists than Kentucky, a State which currently has only two pharmaceutical schools. Midway seeks to provide an opportunity to students in the Appalachian regions of eastern Kentucky, in hopes that they will take their professional degree and return to

their hometowns across the Commonwealth and make a difference for those in need.

Eighty percent of Kentuckians are still without a college degree. The fight to educate citizens of Kentucky wages on, and with the help of forward-thinking institutions like Midway College, the future looks brighter than ever before. So today I would like to ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate if they would join me in recognizing the faculty and staff of Kentucky's own Midway College.

Mr. President, the Kentucky publication "Discover the Power of Southeast Kentucky," published by the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, recently printed an article extolling Midway College and its president, Dr. William B. Drake, Jr. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Discover the Power of Southeast Kentucky, Summer 2011]

MIDWAY COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. WILLIAM B. DRAKE, JR.

Anticipation is in the air as the new Midway College School of Pharmacy prepares to greet its inaugural class. The City of Paintsville, Johnson County, and people throughout the region are excited about the arrival of students aspiring to earn the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree.

Five years ago, the vision of bringing a pharmacy school to eastern Kentucky began taking shape in the minds of Paintsville attorney G. Chad Perry III, his wife, Judy, and the administration of Midway College led by Midway College President Dr. William B. Drake, Jr. One by one, the people whose support was needed recognized the merit of the idea and got behind it. One by one the obstacles to such an ambitious plan were overcome.

In January 2010, Midway College Board of Trustees Chairman James J. O'Brien, Chairman and CEO of Ashland, Inc., officially announced that the Midway College School of Pharmacy would open in Paintsville. Local and state government officials were on hand along with a large crowd gathered for the announcement. U.S. Representative Hal Rogers said, "This project will bring a hundred good paying jobs to the region during a time of high unemployment rates. It also builds educational resources at home to continue the mission of providing quality opportunities so our best and brightest students don't have to leave Kentucky for professional degrees and careers."

In explaining why Midway College chose Paintsville as the site, President Drake said, "The citizens of this community care about education and these citizens, as well as the local public officials, have stepped forward at this unique time to make this school happen." A two-million dollar campaign took place in Paintsville to assist with the capital expenses of building the new school. The school is expected to generate more than \$30 million in economic activity annually in the Paintsville area.

President Drake said the college could not ask for a more enthusiastic or dedicated community than Paintsville. "They understand the value of education," he said. "And it is an incredibly attractive place to work, live, and earn your professional degree."

Dr. Drake has been making weekly trips to Johnson County to oversee the process which

he says has been taxing but worthwhile. "It's like building a whole new culture," he said, describing the many facets of expanding the college's already sizable system of location. He called the projected \$20-million startup venture one of the biggest decisions ever for the private college, whose roots predate the Civil War.

Founded in 1847, Midway College has a main campus in Midway, Kentucky, which is located between Frankfort and Lexington, and offers coursework in 14 different locations across the Commonwealth. In addition to offering in-seat coursework in both the traditional and accelerated setting, Midway offers classes in an online format, providing additional flexibility for students to have the opportunity to obtain their degree. One program unique to Midway includes an online bachelor's degree in Mining Management and Safety. This is one of the only programs in the country designed for those working in the mining industry. Midway College also offers a Masters of Business Administration and will launch a Master of Arts in Teaching this fall, both of which are offered in an online format.

The new school is expected to fill a need for pharmacists all across the nation. With the baby-boomer generation coming into its retirement years, there is a call for pharmacists not only to care for the aging populace but to replace those "boomers" who are retiring from behind the drug counters themselves. According to industry data, there are approximately five applications for each opening at pharmacy schools in the U.S., with even greater need in Appalachia. Only four states have more difficulty than Kentucky in filling pharmacists positions, and there are only two other pharmacy schools in Kentucky—the University of Kentucky in Lexington and the Sullivan School in Louisville.

"Because of the number of students that apply to pharmacy schools, we could fill enrollment with students from California, there are that many," Dr. Drake said. But, he explained, there is a special emphasis on drawing students from the immediate area. "It has been the intent of those who care about the school that we look first and foremost at the students from Appalachia" he said.

"As students graduate from our school they will meet the pressing need that exists in Kentucky today for pharmacists."

Within a year of the official announcement about the opening of the school, the process was underway to select the 80 students who would make up the enrollment of the first class. More than 430 applications were received for the coveted 80 spots. To date, 25 faculty and staff members have been hired with an anticipated total of approximately 100. The school's faculty salaries will be in the 60th percentile of pharmaceutical faculty salaries in the United States.

When asked about the contributions of his staff, President Drake said, "Having a staff like mine, with such an entrepreneurial spirit, has been like gold to me." The staff includes Martha Jean McKenzie Wells (PhD, MsS) and Emily L. Coleman (PhD, MEd) who are natives to the area. The school is also honored to have Dr. Barry Bleidt taking the helm as its Dean. Dr. Bleidt, who earned his undergraduate degrees in Pharmacy and Environmental Geography from the University of Kentucky, was formerly a founding member of Texas A&M's Health Science Center College and left there as the school's Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. He has also held prestigious positions at other pharmacy schools in California, Virginia, and Louisiana.

The School of Pharmacy has a vision of expanding the scope of pharmacy practice and

elevating the level of care to patients in all practice settings, with special emphasis on eastern Kentucky and Appalachia. With that goal in mind, Midway College has signed an agreement with the University of Pikeville guaranteeing interviews to the top 10 students who meet the academic qualifications. Similar agreements have been penned between Midway and Eastern Kentucky University, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, and Morehead State University. These agreements not only benefit the students through specific pharmaceutical instruction, but they will allow all schools to share their academic resources. Hand in hand with the University of Pikeville's School of Osteopathic Medicine and other post-secondary institutions in the area, Midway is looking to show the mountain communities the diverse options that are available to them. With 80 percent of Kentuckians without college degrees, the new institution will offer a fresh new route, a route that's already proving popular with students from the area. Fifty-five to 60 percent of the incoming class is from the state, and even more from adjacent mountain communities.

In keeping with the original vision of Midway and its donors, the new pharmacy school is by Kentuckians for Kentuckians, strengthening the region through strong ties to surrounding communities and its renewed outlook to higher education.

AMBASSADOR SHERRY REHMAN

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to welcome Pakistan's new Ambassador to the United States, Sherry Rehman. Ambassador Rehman has rightly been described as representing "the traditional values of Jinnah's Pakistan." As a journalist, politician, and diplomat, she has fought tirelessly in defense of tolerance and moderation and has been a leading voice for women's equality and protection of minority rights.

The United States-Pakistan relationship has been tested this past year, and while the problems we face are daunting, the basic fact is that stability in Pakistan remains vital to our national security. Ambassador Rehman has arrived in Washington at a time of deep mistrust on both sides. A series of tactical disputes have strained our strategic partnership. Progress on bedrock national interests has stalled, and Pakistan's internal politics seems exceptionally turbulent at this time.

Pakistan faces major challenges today, including an economic and fiscal crisis, a growing insurgency within its borders and cities, and chronic energy shortages. There is increasing anxiety in Pakistan about how the war ends in Afghanistan and what implications this will have for regional stability. Many on both sides are questioning the value and meaning of our strategic partnership.

The truth is we have a lot of work to do to rebuild a productive relationship. Despite our many frustrations and setbacks, we still have more to gain by finding common ground. Whether it is finding a political solution in Afghanistan, reducing militancy, supporting democracy and civil society, or promoting economic and development reforms, the basic fact is that our interests do converge. The challenge for all